

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /064 W
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R 151155Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5764

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

SECDEF

CJCS

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 5360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJ: SOLUTIONS FOR FANK'S MANPOWER

REF: A. AMEMB PHNOM PENH 2638/211215Z FEB 74 (EXDIS)

B. AMEMB PHNOM PENH 2903/270430Z FEB 74

C. AMEMB PHNOM PENH 4205/211225Z MAR 74

D. AMEMB PHNOM PENH 5112/108121Z APR 74

1. SUMMARY. BY US STANDARDS THE FANK IMPLEMENTATION OF 13 RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY MARSHAL LON NOL ON FEB 21 HAS BEEN SLOW AND SOMEWHAT DEFICIENT IN BASIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SUCH AS CONFIRMING ARRIVAL OF REASSIGNED PERSONNEL AT GAINING UNITS. AS OF 4 APRIL, A TOTAL OF 2,018 SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN REASSIGNED FROM OVERSTRENGTH HQ'S STAFFS AND TRAINING CENTERS, BUT ONLY 380 ARE VERIFIED TO HAVE ARRIVED AT THEIR NEW UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT. IN COMPARISON WITH HIS TWO PREDECESSORS, HOWEVER, BG KIM AN DORE CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS IN VITALIZING ACPEER. END OF SUMMARY.

2. OF THE 13 RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE MARSHAL (REF A), 12 HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO VARYING DEGREES, AND ONE REMAINS. (SEE VRROEMK 3J). GENERL GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ON ALL ACTIONS AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, AND SPECIFIC GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO
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ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH REASSIGNMENT OF OVERSTRENGTH PERSONNEL

& UNIT DEACTIVATION. ALTHOUGH SLOW, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 13 RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACER HAS BEEN METHODOICAL AND COMPLETE. RESPONSE BY COMMANDERS AND STAFF AGENCIES ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS VARIED FROM NONE AT ALL TO A TOKEN RELEASE OF PERSONNEL FOR REASSIGNMENT.

3. THE FOLLOWING STATUS ON EACH RECOMMENDATION (KEYED TO PARA 3 REF A) HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE FANK, AND CANNOT BE VERIFIED BY US. PREVIOUS REPORTS HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR VARYING REASONS, THEREFORE SOME FACTS ARE SUSPECT.

A). THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME DIV AND BRIGADE UNITS HAVE TRANSFERRED THEIR OVERSTRENGTH HQS PERSONNEL INTO THEIR COMBAT BATTALIONS. THOSE PERSONNEL REMAINING OVERSTRENGTH IN THESE UNITS' HEADQUARTERS ARE REPORTEDLY UNFIT FOR COMBAT.

B). THE HEADQUARTERS OF MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IS AT AUTHORIZED STRENGTH AND THEREFORE WILL NOT BE LEVIED FOR PERSONNEL.

C). A TOTAL OF 3,927 SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN LEVIED BY ACER FROM FANK HQS STAFF TO BE REASSIGNED TO INTERVENTION UNITS. HOWEVER ONLY 758 HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN REASSIGNED, LEAVING 3169 YET TO BE IDENTIFIED AND REASSIGNED. A TEAM OF OFFICERS HAS BEEN APPOINTED AND WILL CHECK TO SEE IF EACH SOLDIER MOVES AS REQUIRED, BY FANK DIRECTIVE.

D). PROVISIONAL RESERVE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER (CARP) PERSONNEL, STARTING WITH THE WOMEN, ARE BEING CLASSIFIED TO DETERMINE SKILLS, AND APTITUDES FOR FURTHER TRAINING/RETRAINING. THIS IS 25 PERCENT FINISHED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETE BY 18 APRIL. CARP HAS IDENTIFIED ONLY 125 WOMEN SO FAR FOR POSSIBLE REASSIGNMENT TO STAFF OFFICES. AT THIS TIME IT IS UNKNOWN WHEN ANY TRANSFER WILL TAKE PLACE, HOWEVER THE RECLASSIFICATION WILL CONTINUE.

E). THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING HAS NO CURRENT PLAN FOR A TRAINING PROGRAM TO RETRAIN THOSE UNFIT FOR COMBAT, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE WORKING ON ONE.

F). CARP HAS NOT PREPARED A LIST OF 3,000 PERSONNEL WHO MAY BE UNFIT FOR COMBAT BUT WHO MAY REPLACE FIT SOLDIERS TRANSFERRED TO COMBAT UNITS IN LOW SKILL JOBS. THIS IS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS BY
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A NEWLY ORGANIZED COMPUTER CENTER.

G). CARP HAS CURRENTLY REASSIGNED 679 SOLDIERS TO COMBAT DIVISIONS AS OF 17 MAR 74. AN ADDITIONAL LIST OF 1335 MEN IS IN THE HANDS OF THE ACER FOR INVESTIGATION AND POSSIBLE REASSIGNMENT TO INTERVENTION UNITS. THE DECISION WAS TO BE MADE BY 29 MAR 74 BUT IS STILL PENDING.

H). AN ORDER WAS ISSUED TO DISSOLVE THE HQ'S OF THE VIHEAR SUOR MILITARY SUBDIVISION. HOWEVER ON 22 MAR 74 MAJOR GENERAL FANMUONG, DEPCINCFANK DECIDED NOT TO DEACTIVATE THE HQ.

I). FOUR UNDERSTRENGTH BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN DEACTIVATED WITH TOKEN STRENGTHS BEING ASSIGNED TO OTHER INTERVENTION BRIGADES. SIX OTHER BN'S ARE BEING STUDIED FOR POSSIBLE DEACTIVATION.

J). NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON DEVELOPING AN ALERT SYSTEM DUE TO LACK OF PROGRESS IN MORE BASIC AREAS.

K). A TOTAL OF 3893 SOLDIERS WERE IDENTIFIED OUT OF PHNOM PENH MILITARY SUBDIVISION UNITS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO DIVISIONS & INTERVENTION BDES. NONE HAVE YET TO BE ORDERED FOR REASSIGNMENT.

L). RECRUITS FROM P.O. ARE BEING REASSIGNED TO INTERVENTION UNITS.

M). PURSUANT TO THE DECISION TO REQUIRE MILITARY REGIONS TO SUPPLY TERRITORIAL UNITS TO THE INTERVENTION UNITS (IN LIEU OF CONSCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL RESERVES IN THE PROVINCES - REF C) EACH OF 18 MILITARY SUBDIVISIONS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO RELEASE ONE COMPANY PER MONTH. WE ESTIMATE FOUR COMPANIES HAVE TO DATE APPEARED IN PHNOM PENH. STATUS OF PHNOM PENH CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN WAS REPORTED REF D.

4. THE ACPER HAS PLANNED TO MOVE APPROXIMATELY 9,189 SOLDIERS BASED ON THEIR PLAN OF ACTION. HOWEVER, ONLY 380 HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AS HAVING ARRIVED AT THEIR UNITS. THE PLAN IS PLAGUED BY FANK COMMANDERS AND STAFF OFFICERS WHO MAKE MANY EXCUSES FOR AVOIDING THE DIRECTIVES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE STRENGTH. BG AN DORE IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SOME SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS BUT 90-100 DAYS IS A MORE APPROPRIATE TIME FRAME.

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